

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /058 W

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R 111245Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3445

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 8999

E.O. GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IR

SUBJ: PROSPECTIVE CABINET CHANGES

1. IT IS FAIRLY CERTAIN THAT A NUMBER OF NEW FACES OR CHANGES IN EXISTING PORTFOLIOS WILL OCCUR IN THE CABINET AND BECOME KNOWN ABOUT SEPTEMBER 17. TEHRAN IS NOW ALIVE WITH RUMORS AND GUESSES ABOUT WHAT THESE CHANGES MIGHT BE. MUCH OF WHAT WE HEAR IS FREQUENTLY CONTRA-DICTORY, SPECULATIVE AND DOUBTLESS ILL INFORMED. IN FACT, THE ONLY SOLID AND PRESUMABLY RELIABLE PIECE OF INFORMATION WE HAVE ACQUIRED TO DATE WAS THE ADMISSION OF MINISTER OF LABOR MOINI HIMSELF THAT HE WOULD NOT BE IN THE NEW CABINET.

2. MUCH OF THE CURRENT SPECULATION CENTERS AROUND WHETHER PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA WILL CONTINUE IN OFFICE AND IF HE DOES NOT, WHO WILL TAKE HIS PLACE. WE HAVE HEARD VARIOUSLY THAT HE WILL BECOME A SORT OF IRANIAN BREZHNEV AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE RASTAKHIZ PARTY WITH SOMEONE ELSE FILLING THE PRIME MINISTER SLOT WHICH WILL BECOME DISTINCTLY LESS IMPORTANT THAN IT IS AT PRESENT. WE HAVE ALSO HEARD THAT EITHER AMOUZEGAR OR ANSARY OR ARDESHIR ZAHEDI WILL BECOME PRIME MINISTER. ZMOUZEGAR HAS ALSO BEEN MENTIONED AS THE NEXT FOREIGN MINISTER OF IRAN WITH CENTRAL BANK'S YEGANEH BECOMING MINISTER OF PETROLEUM WITH A NEWLY CREATED PORTFOLIO.

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OTHER RUMORED CHANGES HAS THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND

ARTS PAHLBOD, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE ROUHANI, MINISTER OF POWER VAHIDI, MINISTER OF WAR AZIMI, MINISTER OF HEALTH POUYAN, MINISTER OF INFORMATION KIANPOUR, AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND HIGHER EDUCATION SAMII ALL LEAVING THE CABINET. MINISTER OF PTT MOTAMEDI AND MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE SHEIKHO-ESLAM ZADEH ARE ALSO RUMORED TO BE LEAVING.

3. GIVEN THE ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY AND DOMINANCE OF THE SHAH OVER THE GOVERNMENT APPARATUS HERE, CABINET CHANGES, EVEN OF THE PRIME MINISTER, WILL HAVE MARGINAL MEANING IN TERMS OF IRAN'S INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL POLICIES. NEVERTHELESS, IT WILL BE INSTRUCTIVE TO SEE WHAT CHANGES ARE IN FACT MADE AND WHAT NEW FACES MAY APPEAR IN THE CABINET'S MAKEUP. WE WOULD EXPECT THAT IN MOST CASES THE NEW CABINET WOULD PRETTY MUCH RESEMBLE THE OLD IN THE SENSE THAT MOST CABINET OFFICERS WOULD PROBABLY BE WESTERN, IF NOT AMERICAN, EDUCATED AND BASICALLY COMPETENT TECHNOCRATS, WHOLLY LOYAL TO THE SHAH AND HIS POLICIES. IN OUR JUDGMENT IT WOULD BE FRUITLESS TO TRY TO GO BEYOND THIS GENERALIZED PREDICTION AND TO IDENTIFY PROBABLE SPECIFIC CABINET CHANGES SINCE WE ARE ALMOST CERTAIN TO BE WRONG AND PROBABLY ONLY THE SHAH HIMSELF KNOWS FOR CERTAIN WHAT CHANGES, IF ANY, WILL BE MADE.

MIKLOS

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